plans of Druk Air to start operations to Bagdogra in Summer 2009. During the bilateral air services meeting with Bhutan held in July 2008, Bagdogra was granted as an additional point of call for designated airlines of Bhutan and they were informed that at least three months notice would be required to put in place the required facilities for operation of international services upon receiving the request from Government of Bhutan. Airports Authority of India has initiated action to accommodate meeting the requirements of proposed international operation by M/s Druk Air.

New runway at Delhi airport

†120. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airlines companies are displeased with the commissioning of the new runway (29-11) for flights at Delhi airport;

(b) whether Government has made any inquiry to ascertain the causes of the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new runway being situated very far away from terminal not only causes the wastage of time but also the wastage of fuel;

(d) whether the new runway has facilitated the take off and landing of flights during foggy weather; and

(e) the action taken by Government to redress the grievances of airlines' companies and relieving the people living in the vicinity from noise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) With the opening of new runway 29/11, there is no effect on taxying time for the International Arrival flights. However, the taxying time for Domestic Arrival flights has increased by 7-10 minutes but the hovering time of these flights has reduced significantly, which has saved time as well as fuel for the airlines.

(d) Runway 29/11 is equipped with Cat.III-B ILS which can facilitate aircraft landing and takeoff upto an RVR of 50 meters, during foggy weather.

(e) Measures are in place by Delhi International Airport Private Limited like installation of noise sensors at number of places in the vicinity of airport for studying the noise level.

Facilities at Rajasansi airport

†121. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to stater:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance international air services and facilities at Rajasansi airport, Amritsar for the convenience of pilgrims, tourists and Non-Resident Indians coming from all over the world to visit holy shrine of Sikhs, Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar;

(b) if so, by when it will be finalized and the names of countries from where direct flights to Amritsar are under consideration;

(c) whether Government is aware that a few airlines have cancelled their services;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi